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NANTWICH URBAN DISTRICT,
1937.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

J. D. MUNRO,

TO WHICH IS APPENDED

the Report of the Sanitary Inspector,

P. BEBBINGTON.

Nantwich Urban District.



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Health and Sanitary Condition

of the

Urban District of Nantwich,

for the Year 1937,


By J. D. MUNRO,

Medical Officer of Health,

and the

Report of the Sanitary Inspector,

P. BEBBINGTON.



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REPORT.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Nantwich, which is an ancient town, is situated in the South-West corner of the County of Cheshire.

The climate is equable and mild, and the geological formation met with consists of red marl.

It is a market town for a large and important agricultural area.

The Brine Baths Hotel is situated on the outskirts of the town, and is visited by a large number of patients suffering from Rheumatism, Gout, Sciatica, Neuritis, etc.

There is a Brine Swimming Pool, 100 feet in length and 50 feet in width. The water is purified and maintained at the highest degree of purity.

The industries consist of Wholesale Clothing Manufacturies, Boot and Shoe Manufacturies, and a large Tannery.

Area (acres), 1,173.

Estimated population to middle of 1937, 8,453.

Number of inhabited houses (1937), 2,298.

Rateable value, £40,917 0s. 0d.

Sun: represented by a penny rate, £154 10s. 2d.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total	M.	F.
Births :	93	47	46

(Of the above births 5 were illegitimate).

Birth Rate, 11 per 1,000 population.

Deaths, 131. Death Rate, 15·4 per 1,000 population.

Deaths under one year of age numbered 5 : illegitimate, Nil.
The infantile death rate was 53·7 per 1,000 births.

Percentage of total deaths occurring in Public Institutions, 8·3.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR.

	AGE GROUPS.											Total cases notified	Cases admitt'd to Hospit'l	Total Deaths	
	Under 1 Year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65				65 and over
Scarlet Fever	...	1	...	...	1	3	1	...	1	...	1	...	8	8	...
Pneumonia	1	...	...	*1	2	3	**5	12	...	3
Diphtheria	1	2	1	4	***51	*32	*3	1	2	1	...	98	97	6
Erysipelas	1	...	2	2	5	...	...

4

* Indicates age at which death occurred.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Cases.					Deaths		
	Notified	Treated			Vision Unimpaired		Vision Impaired	Total Blindness
		At Home	In Hospital					
						
	NIL.				

Disinfection of the rooms is carried out by spraying with Formalin and washing down with a solution of some well-known disinfectant. Bedding and clothing which cannot be boiled are disinfected by means of a Steam Disinfector at the Joint Hospital.

Eight cases of Scarlet Fever and 97 of Diphtheria were removed to the Isolation Hospital for treatment. One case of Diphtheria was treated at home, and recovered.

Six deaths occurred from Diphtheria at the Isolation Hospital.

DIPHThERIA.

Ninety-eight cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year, as follows:—January, 4; February, 2; March, 4; April, nil; May, 4; June, 4; July, 3; August, 7; September, 6; October, 14; November, 27; December, 23.

All cases in August were from the same class in the Infants' Department at the National School. All the children in the class were swabbed, and one was returned positive. The Infants' Department was closed from the 1st to the 13th of September and was disinfected and cleansed.

It will be seen that the disease became more prevalent during October, November, and December.

The Schools were visited at numerous times, by both the School Medical Officer and myself; children were examined and swabs taken. On 24th November one swab was returned positive and five cases occurred in the same house.

Two children who attended the Child Welfare Centre with sore noses were swabbed and returned positive. Each case was visited as soon as the patient had been removed and disinfection was thoroughly carried out.

Particular attention was paid to drains and full enquiries were made with regard to milk supply, contacts, etc., with a view to tracing the cause of the disease.

I was frequently in consultation with the County Medical Officer of Health and he did not think it advisable to close the schools.

The disease was of a severe type and six deaths occurred during the year.

I submitted a report to the Council and advised them that the question of free immunisation against Diphtheria should be considered. Particulars and costs were placed before the Council and they agreed to pay for the immunisation of children between the ages of 1 and 15 years. It is anticipated that the scheme will be put in hand early in the new year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1937.

AGE.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10—15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15—20	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	..
20—25	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..
25—35	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
35—45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45—55	...	2	...	...	3	2	...	...
55—65	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
65 and upw'ds	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Totals	3	3	...	...	6	4	...	...

All Tuberculosis deaths have been notified.

During the year all cases of Tuberculosis reported have been frequently visited, sputum cups and disinfectants provided gratis, and leaflets containing information for those suffering from the disease have been distributed.

After death, or removal to Hospital, all bedding, rooms, etc., have been thoroughly disinfected.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925—No action taken.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, SECTION 62—No action taken.

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre in the District is under the County Council, where one Nurse is in attendance.

Two Midwives are practising in the District.

There are two trained Nurses now working in the District, one for District work and the other for Maternity cases. These are supervised by a Committee, and supported by voluntary subscriptions. A small charge is made to those who require the Nurses' services and do not subscribe. Necessitous cases are attended free.

There is a Poor Law Institution and Hospital in the District, also a Cottage Hospital and ambulance facilities.

The Nantwich Joint Isolation Hospital has 41 beds. Three diseases can be concurrently treated. There are also up-to-date Ambulance facilities and Steam Disinfecting Apparatus.

The Smallpox Hospital is situated at Ravensmoor, and is available for both Urban and Rural Districts.

LABORATORY WORK.

Thirteen specimens of sputum were examined at the County Laboratory.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied by the Council free for necessitous cases. A supply of Toxoid Antitoxin was kept in hand in case it was required for immunising children against Diphtheria.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Sewage Disposal Scheme is working satisfactorily.

HOUSING.

The Council have commenced the erection of 40 houses to replace houses for demolition and to deal with overcrowding.

The Sanitary Inspector is making a re-survey of the District with a view to the demolition of any further houses which are considered to be unfit for habitation.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

The report of the Sanitary Inspector, which is appended, shows in detail the work carried on during the year in the Health Department. It will be seen that a considerable number of inspections have been made.

Visits to work in course of construction and the supervision of work undertaken in the abatement of nuisances have entailed a large amount of work and expenditure of time. This is energy well applied, as it is only by the exercise of close personal supervision that satisfactory results can be obtained.

Particular attention has been paid to the sanitary conditions of premises at which cases of infectious disease occurred, notices being served when required and any defects found remedied.

J. D. MUNRO.

May, 1938.

Nantwich Urban District.

THE Sanitary Inspector's Report.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Nantwich Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration the Annual Report of the work done in the Sanitary Department during the year 1937.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

P. BEBBINGTON, A. R. SAN. I.,

Sanitary Inspector.

May, 1938.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTOR'S WORK FOR 1937.

Pail Closets converted into W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	144
W.C.'s erected	...	..	...	...	—
New W.C. Basins Fixed	...	...	...	...	1
Defective House Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	2
New Drainage Schemes	...	...	...	...	10
Stopped House Drains and W.C.'s cleared	...	...	...	...	111
New Manholes built	...	...	...	...	1
New Dustbins provided in place of defective ones	...	...	...	...	148
New Closet Pails provided	...	...	...	...	2
House roofs stripped and re-slatted	...	...	...	...	1
Defective House Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	3
„ Closet Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	2
„ Living Room Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	3
„ Spouting repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Trapped Gullies fixed	...	...	...	...	1
Ashpits abolished	...	...	...	...	2
New Ranges fixed	...	...	...	...	2
New Lead Gutters	...	...	...	...	—
Privies taken down and rebuilt	...	...	..	...	3
Sinkstones fixed in houses	...	...	...	...	18
Sink Waste Pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	—
Defective Yard Paving repaired	...	...	...	...	16
Brick Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	—
Dilapidated Plastering repaired	...	...	...	...	—
Dirty Houses cleansed	...	...	...	...	3
Water Taps fixed inside houses	...	...	...	...	18

NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS.

	Visits made.
Dwelling Houses (general inspections)	... 254
House Drainage (in course of construction)	... 379
Offensive Trades	... 81
Slaughter-houses	... 563
Other places where food is produced or sold	... 169
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	... 206
Factories, Workshops and Workplaces	... 21
Outworkers' premises	... 216
Bakehouses	... 52
Common Lodging-houses	... 167
Canal Boats	... 17
Infectious Diseases inquiries and re-visits	... 115
Nuisances re-visited	... 553
Pail Closets	... 414
Dustbins	... 210
Conversion of Pail Closets to Water Closets	... 939
Miscellaneous visits	... 250

4,606

NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR 1937.

Two hundred and fifty-two Informal Notices were served for the abatement of nuisances: 248 have been complied with and 4 are in hand.

One Statutory Notice was served, as follows:—under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1930, and was complied with.

PAIL CLOSETS.

The Council agreed to pay owners of dwelling houses who were prepared to convert the pail closets into water closets half the cost, not, however, exceeding £3, incurred by the owner in altering each pail closet into a water closet, provided that the water closet complied with the bye-laws; the contribution payable by the Council to be paid without interest within two months of the receipt by the Council of the Ministry of Health's sanction to the borrowing by the Council of the monies required for the conversion of the pail closets in the Urban District.

At the end of the year 157 pail closets had been converted into water closets under the guarantee of the Council; fifty-one were in a dilapidated state and were taken down and rebuilt; 78 drains were found to be defective and new drains were laid throughout; 10 new manholes were built for connection to existing drains and the remainder were connected by inserting junctions on existing drains.

The Surveyor has submitted a report and estimated cost of the scheme for conversion and the Council have decided to make application to the Ministry of Health for sanction to borrow the monies.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

MILK AND DAIRIES' ORDER, 1926.

There are fifteen Cowkeepers in the District, nine of which have been brought in by the extension of boundaries. Five are producers of Accredited Milk and one of Tuberculin Tested Milk.

New concrete floors have been laid in one cowshed.

Limewashing has been carried out at least twice during the year.

SCHOOLS.

The National School (Infants' Department) was closed from the 1st to the 13th September, 1937, owing to Diphtheria.

Disinfection and cleansing were carried out under supervision

BAKEHOUSES.

There are twenty retail bakehouses in the District. These have been inspected and found satisfactory, 52 visits having been made.

Notices to limewash have been served in several cases, and have been complied with.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES, etc.

There are four Registered and four Licensed private Slaughter-houses in the District. Five hundred and sixty-three visits have been made to these premises, which have been kept in a satisfactory state.

There are 33 slaughter-men's names on the Register.

The Council decided that in accordance with Section 2 of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, Section 1 of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, shall on and from the 1st day of January, 1938, apply to sheep, ewes, wethers, rams, and lambs.

FOOD SUPPLIES CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

The premises where food supplies are prepared and exposed for sale are regularly inspected, and no seizure of unsound food has been made during the year.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

These premises are regularly inspected, are kept in a cleanly state, and no complaints as to nuisances arising therefrom have been received during the year.

The following is a list of the Offensive Trades established within the District, viz:—One large Tannery, a Fellmonger, and one Tripe Boiler.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

There are three registered Common Lodging-houses in the District.

One hundred and sixty-seven visits have been paid to these premises, which are well conducted and kept in a clean state.

One Lodging-house has been closed during the year.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND INFECTION.

All cases of infectious disease notified had immediate attention; precaution papers containing instructions for preventing the spread of the disease were left, also liquid disinfectants for washing and cleansing purposes. After recovery or removal of the patients the infected bedding and clothing were removed to the Isolation Hospital and disinfected by steam. The infected rooms were afterwards sprayed with Formalin and thoroughly cleansed.

One hundred and twenty-two rooms were disinfected during the year.

Special attention was paid to the sanitary condition of the premises, and any defects found were immediately remedied.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

These Acts were administered by officials appointed by the County Council.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

- (a) Total (including numbers given separately under b),
10.
- (b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:
By the Local Authority, **Nil.**

I. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts), **254.**

- (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose
310.

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, **Nil**.

(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose, **Nil**.

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation, **Nil**.

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, **Nil**.

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers, **47**.

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

A.—Proceedings under Sections 17, 18, and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs, **7**.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—

(a) By owners, **7**.

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners, **Nil**.

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied, **Nil**.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—

(a) By owners, **Nil**.

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners, **Nil**.

C.—Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930:

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made, **Nil**.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders, **9**.

D.—Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930:

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made, **Nil**.
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit, **Nil**.

HOUSING ACT, 1936, Part IV. OVERCROWDING.

- (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year, **62**.
- (ii) Number of families dwelling therein, **62**.
- (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein, **423½**.
- (b) (i) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year, **Nil**.
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year, **13**.
- (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases, **80½**.

OVERCROWDING RELIEVED—(c) (i).

- 4 families to Council houses.
- 3 families to larger houses.
- 3 families left the district.
- 3 families reduced through death.

HOUSING ACT, 1930.

The position at the end of the year with regard to 157 Statutory Notices served under Section 19 of the Housing Act, 1930, is as follows:—

67 houses:	Scheduled for demolition.	39 demolished.
25 houses:	Undertaking given not to use houses for human habitation after agreed date.	22 vacant.
65 houses:	Undertaking given to carry out all repairs required by the Council by an agreed date.	64 repaired.

Six houses where an undertaking was given not to use the houses for human habitation have been demolished.

The following is a schedule of the work carried out during the year under Preliminary Notices and Statutory Notices served under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1930, and Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

	Preliminary Notices.	Statutory Notices.
New tile floors	60	8
New wood block floors	4	—
New steps	16	2
Defective brickwork repaired	50	7
Chimneys repaired and rebuilt	22	6
New grates and grates repaired	27	3
Plaster to walls and ceilings repaired	32	—
New stairs and stairs repaired	1	—
New doors and doors repaired	7	2
New door frames and frames repaired	17	2
New windows and windows repaired	84	21
Opening lights in windows	12	4
Extra windows fixed	5	—
Bedroom floors repaired	7	—
New skirting boards	4	—
House roofs repaired	32	7
House roof stripped and reslated	—	—
Eaves and down spouts renewed	33	10
Yard paving repaired	34	6
New sinks fixed	6	3
Sinks fixed in houses, water laid on, gulley fixed to receive waste pipe, and connections to drains	1	—
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	18	2
Sink taken down and refixed	—	—
Washing boilers repaired and new boilers	10	1
Privies repaired	9	7
Privies taken down and rebuilt	12	—
Coal houses taken down and rebuilt	10	—
New yard gates and posts	12	1
New drains laid	17	—
New manhole cover	1	—

In accordance with the instructions of the Council I am carrying out a re-survey of the dwelling houses in the district. My inspections are confined to houses which are in a bad state of repair and fall below the standard required. It is hoped to complete the re-survey early in the new year.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

Inspections under this Act have been made and contraventions are being dealt with.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

All Factories and Workshops have been periodically inspected.

OUTWORKERS.

Two hundred and sixteen visits have been paid to Outworkers' premises; particular attention has been paid to the sanitary condition under which the outwork has been carried on and a number of nuisances have been abated.

LICENCES.

During the year twenty-three Licences for the sale and storage of Petroleum, one Game, and four Slaughter-house have been renewed.

ADOPTIVE AND LOCAL ACTS

IN FORCE IN THE URBAN DISTRICT.

	Date of adoption or when same came into force.
Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890 	1st October, 1900.
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 :—	
Parts 1 and 3 	18th July, 1894.
Part IV 	1st September, 1901.
Public Libraries Acts, 1892, 1893, and 1901, (Offences) Act, 1898 ...	8th August, 1887.
Private Street Works Act, 1892 ...	26th April, 1895.
Nantwich Urban District Council Act, 1903 	21st July, 1903.
Local Government Board's Provisional Orders (Confirmation) No. 7 Act, 1905 	21st August, 1905.
ditto. No. 4 Act, 1907	28th August, 1907.
ditto. No. 9 Act, 1912	7th August, 1912.
Local Government Act, 1894, Section 8, s.s. 1. Powers of Parish Council as to Public Offices, etc. ...	17th October, 1923.
Local Government Act, 1894, Section 13, s.s. 2. Public Foot- paths. ...	11th July, 1924.
County of Chester Review Order, 1936.	1st April, 1936.

NANTWICH URBAN DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT ON CANAL BOATS, 1937.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

BARKER STREET,

NANTWICH,

11th January, 1938.

Seventeen boats were inspected during the year, and all were found in a satisfactory condition.

No boats have been registered during the year.

There have been no notifications of infectious disease.

The occupants of the boats were as follows:—

Men	...	...	...	...	...	21
Women	...	...	...	...	...	14
Children	...	...	...	...	...	8

A considerable number of visits were paid to the Canal but no boats found plying.

(Signed)

P. BEBBINGTON, A. R. SAN. I.,

Inspector.

